



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
1102 SE Quince Street • PO Box 47990
Olympia, Washington 98504-7990

September 11, 2002

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members
FROM: Vickie Ybarra, WSBOH Member
RE: PROPOSED CHANGES TO CHAPTER 246-491 WAC VITAL STATISTICS

Background and Summary:

Approximately every decade the federal Department of Health and Human Services, through the National Center for Health Statistics, at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, promotes changes to three major certificates that are collected nationally: Birth, Death and Fetal Death Certificates. The national certificate revision process is driven by a need to collect current and comparable data across the U.S and to insure that the data collected reflect relevant issues and needs of policy makers.

Chapter 246-491 Washington Administrative code (WAC) --Vital Statistics-Certificates governs the collection of information on all three major certificates for Washington State: Birth, Death, and Fetal Death. These certificates must be based on the U.S. Standard. In order to comply with recent changes to the U.S. Standard, WAC 246-491 must be revised. The State Board of Health and the Washington State Department of Health share responsibility for making these revisions. The Board and the department are also responsible for making the certificates more likely to be completed accurately.

Proposed changes to Chapter 246-491 WAC have been published in the Washington State Register as Code Reviser Document OTS 5810.1 The proposed amended WAC and an inventory of the proposed changes are attached.

Recommended Board Action:

The Board should approve changes to Chapter 246-491 WAC published in the Washington State Register as Code Reviser Document OTS 5810.1 and considered in public hearing today.